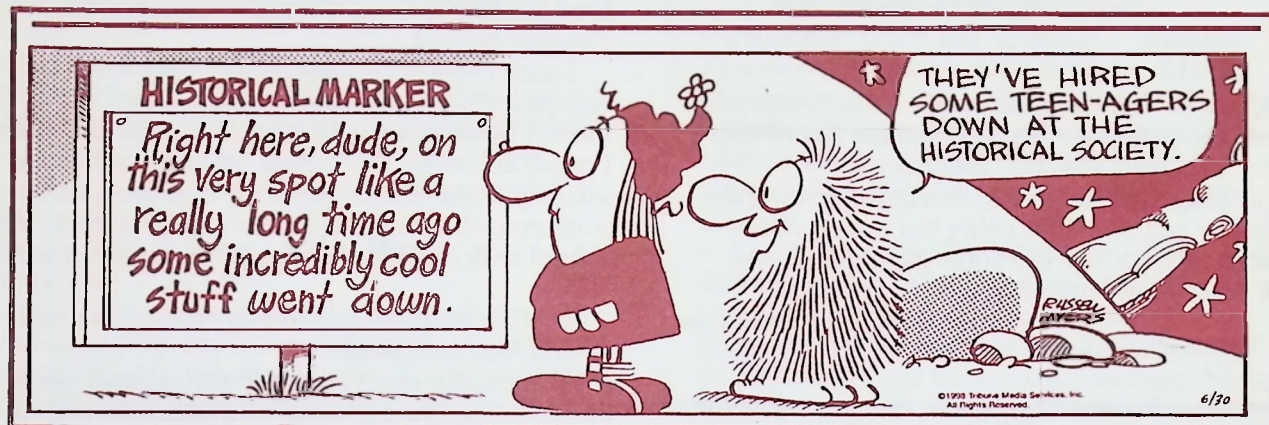


THE OLDTIMER

Volume 33, Number 3

The Newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society

October 1998



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We Have a Date

NOVEMBER

• **November 15.** The JCHS annual meeting begins at 2:30 p.m. in the Schmidt House with "finger food" refreshments. Please bring your favorite snack to share; the society will furnish the drinks and utensils. Meeting will include the installation of new officers, board and volunteer recognition and awards. **DON'T FORGET** your white elephant gift worth at least \$5. for the silent auction fundraiser.

DECEMBER

• **All Month.** The bookshop will be stocked for your gift-giving needs including holiday items, books and gift memberships that make great stocking stuffers and support the society at the same time.

• **December 12.** The annual holiday bake sale will be in the research library once again from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. We welcome your donations of goodies!

• **Dates to be Announced.** Holiday fest with Victorian actors and carolers.

Teenagers Come to Our Historical Society

Adrienne Dutton

Adrienne Dutton worked at the research library every day for eight weeks as part of a work experience program through the Job Council. Her tasks included library work and bookshop sales. You may have seen Adrienne's smiling face as she served a slice of pie to you at the social in July.

Equipped with a green thumb from helping in the society's gardens, Adrienne is involved in the local 4-H program as well. Over the years, she has enjoyed raising her "piggies", entering them in the Josephine County Fair.

A sophomore this year at Hidden Valley High School, Adrienne lives in Murphy and interacts with older folks at Oaklane where her mother serves as cook. We're pleased that she selected the JCHS to interact with this summer!

Nikki Chalupa

Nikki Chalupa is a freshman at St. Mary's High School in Medford, where she is required to perform a certain amount of community service hours. We're lucky that she devoted her time to us this summer!

A student at North Middle School last semester, Nikki did her research here for the term paper she was writing in Mike Tripp's Social Studies class. Nikki's paper, "*The Railroads of Josephine County and Grants Pass*," appeared in *Mondays Make History* on October 19. Not only did Nikki work on her paper, but she also helped decorate the society's float for the Boatnik Parade.

Nikki volunteered every Tuesday afternoon at the society in the research library, and on Wednesdays, she helped the Campbell's in the garden. She and Adrienne both served as tour guides through the Schmidt House and did a wonderful job. Nikki and her sister, Julie dressed in costume for the pie social and became living history players.

If she wasn't helping us here at the society, she was helping her parents at their family's business, Coldwell Banker, Doran Taylor.

We at the society are awfully thankful and very pleased that these two wonderful young ladies wanted to share their summers with us!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Schmidt House Staff:

My daughter and I very much enjoyed our tour of the Schmidt House last week.

Enclosed is a contribution to help keep it in condition.

I'm anxiously awaiting the cookbook!

Charles and Evelyne Vannice

JCHS:

Thank you so much for the lovely shirt, poster and food presented to those of us who had the fun of being part of the "Rosie the Riveter" production.

Kitty Kaping Funk did a wonderful job putting the show together and she did nothing but praise all the enthusiasm and help that you folks gave her efforts.

Thank you again; I loved it!

Caroline T. Berkman

THE OLDTIMER

is the newsletter of the
Josephine County Historical Society
512 SW 5th Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526
(541) 479-7827

•
Annual dues are \$15.00 and include
a subscription.

•
Lee Ann Tardieu --Editor

•
Quarterly circulation of THE OLDTIMER is 650.
The publishing committee also produces
an annual historical publication,
mailed free of charge to
all members of the society.

Rose Scott:

What a great book *The Pictorial History of Josephine County* is! Everyone involved should be very proud for producing such an outstanding book.

Often when the ink is barely dry, someone finds an error. I feel I should report the one I found.

On page 104 there is a fine photo of my mother, Iva MacArthur Gilmore, and her pupils, but *not* at Murphy School.

I recall Mother telling me of how much she enjoyed teaching at a small school just west of Grants Pass. I believe she called it the "Dimmick" School. If I recall correctly, the school building was in the vicinity of the Rogue River Grange area, and was soon consolidated into a Grants Pass school. Another school with a small enrollment she enjoyed was Hugo.

Mother's school at Murphy was known as the Laurel Grove School.

I especially enjoyed the Jewell School photo. My parents were friends of all of them as young adults, but I had never seen a photo of them as children.

Amy Gilmore Hendrickson

Living History Players:

Thank you so much for your wonderful performance at the Rogue Lea Estates-West Clubhouse on May 8.

We enjoyed all the wonderful history of the people who had helped to make our county special.

To Claudette, Janet, Dennis, Molly, John, Judy and Jean; thank you so much.

Residents of Rogue Lea Estates-West

Rose Scott:

Thanks for taking the time on your day off to take our LDS group through the Research Library and the Schmidt House. Everyone commented on what a nice idea to see things in our own town.

Your time and effort was much appreciated.

Bonnie Rhodes

Bonded

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Words from the Book Shop

***HOT** new books from our Book Shop*

Come on in and look these over--they'd make great Christmas gifts!

- ***Advanced Fly Fishing for Steelhead;***

Meyer - \$24.95

160 pages loaded with color plates, techniques. Gorgeous!

- ***Forgotten Tribes; Hines - \$12.95***

Original myths and legends of the Warm Springs (Tenino), Umatilla and Cascades (Watlala) Indians. Allows a brief glance into the mental life of these Indian tribes. A *must read* for everyone interested in Native American culture and life.

- ***Women Who Charmed the West;***

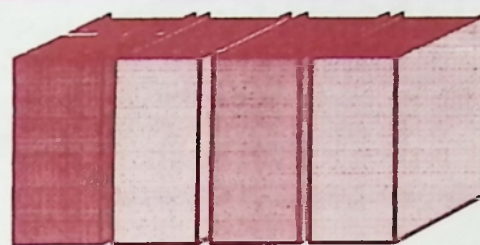
Seagraves - \$11.95

From the Victorian era of the 1800s through the turn-of-the-century, legendary actresses are brought front and center in this lively, entertaining book. Meet the women who entertained and charmed the audiences of the West.

- ***Pictorial History of Josephine County***

\$39.95

This 128 page hardcover history combines photographs from the society's collection, the Courier's archives and a few private collections.



- ***Thunder Over the Ochoco: Distant Thunder, Volume II; Ontko - \$16.95***

This second of a five volume set continues the narrative of the proud Shoshoni people from 1840 to 1860 when the first American homesteaders began venturing into the Ochoco country.

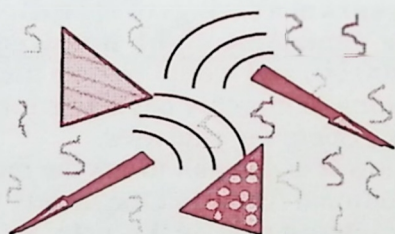
- ***Thunder Over the Ochoco: Lightning Strikes, Volume III; Ontko - \$19.95***

In the 1860s Shoshoni dog soldiers fought desperately to stem the tide from the flood of homesteaders and miners alike seeking the rich deposits of gold in eastern Oregon.

- ***This is Logging and Sawmilling***

\$19.95
247 amazing photographs, maps, drawings, etc. This book includes logging by helicopter and in the snow with a major section on fighting forest fires. Visit lumber mills and watch one burn!

The OLDTIMERS' Cookbook IS HERE!!



Please reserve ___ copies @ \$6.50 each.

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please add \$1.50 for shipping & handling per book if being mailed to you.

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History at the Center

The following informational report was submitted to the JCHS board earlier this year by Robert Lane, Director at Large. Bob was very instrumental in the renovation of the new library building and continues to be involved with the maintenance and general well-being of the society. The consensus of the board was that the information should be presented to the general membership, so we are featuring his report in this column:

**RE: Lots 11 and 12, Block 79,
Original Townsite,
City of Grants Pass, Oregon
Commonly known as: 512 SW 5th St.**

The loan on this property is held by the Neil Home Living Trust and is being serviced by Josephine County Title Co., Inc. of Grants Pass, Oregon. This property was obtained through an assumption agreement with the Mt. View Baptist Church for a price in the amount of fifty three thousand dollars (\$53,000.00) and a note was obtained in the amount of forty five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00) at an interest rate of seven and one-half percent (7.5%) per annum. This note is due in its entirety by December 20, 2011. The balance remaining is approximately thirty one thousand dollars (\$31,000.00).

Under these terms, there are approximately 13 years and ten months (166 payments) of at least three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per month left. The payments made over the past year have been just a bit shy of this amount; therefore, it is my recommendation that each monthly payment hereafter be a minimum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) or more so that this note will be paid in full by that date, even if it means letting other bills be carried over.

Further, I recommend that a proposal be placed to the membership that as many members as possible pledge at least \$25.00 per month, or as much as they feel they can, for five years, to go directly to retiring this debt in as short a time as possible. If we could increase this payment to \$600.00 per month it would be paid off in about **five years** at a savings of approximately **twelve thousand eight hundred dollars** (\$12,800.00) and would free up the \$300.00 now going to monthly payments for use on the monthly operating expenses.

I know it is difficult to ask the membership for additional funds, but the society cannot write off the interest paid on this note, yet each of us who makes the \$300.00 per year donation can use the write off on our income taxes. Many of us are going to make overall donations in excess

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W.A. (AL) TILLERY

History at the Center

of this amount anyway, so perhaps some will consider using their donations to support this local organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Lane
Director at Large

Since 1989 when the lots were acquired, a goal of the board has been to raise funds to pay off the debt on the property. During the intervening nine years, however, except for a few explicit property pledges, any extra funds raised have been utilized for the maintenance of the Schmidt House and yard (\$600.00 per month) and for the renovation of the barn and the new research library project.

Bob's report turns our attention once again to the goal of paying off the loan balance, if not in total, then in a shorter period of time. We hope that 12 motivated members will pledge \$25.00 per month to help for at least one year or more, or that 30 members will pledge \$10.00 per month to help pay the loan off early and save the \$12,800.00 being paid in interest. We welcome your comments and encourage your pledge commitments!

1st Annual Pay Off Debt - "POD" - Drive

YES!! I want to put a "pea in the pod":

I WILL BE ONE OF 12:

- ☐ Expect my \$25 on the ___ day of each month.
- ☐ My pledge is good for ___ year(s).
- ☐ Enclosed is my \$300 check for 1 year.

I WILL BE ONE OF 30:

- ☐ Expect my \$10 on the ___ day of each month.
- ☐ My pledge is good for ___ year(s).
- ☐ Enclosed is my \$120 check for 1 year.

I'll make a one-time, 5-year contribution:

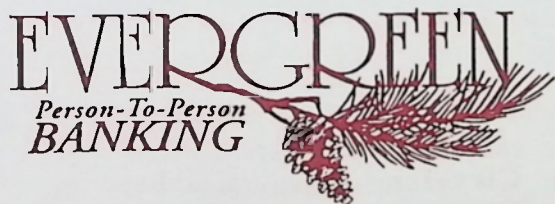
- ☐ Enclosed is my check for \$1500.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone #: _____

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Mail to:
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512 SW 5th Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

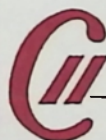


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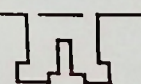
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From the Scrapbook

...The National Observer's Scrapbook, that is!

Summer is Gone

My tiding for you: The stag bells,
Winter snows, summer is gone.

Wind high and cold, low the sun,
Short his course, sea running high.

Deep-red the bracken, its shape all gone--
The wild-goose has raised his wonted cry.

Cold has caught the wings of birds;
Season of ice--these are my tidings.

--**Anonymous** (ninth Century Irish)

Indian Summer

Frontier settlers referred to the warm periods in late fall and early winter as Indian summer because they knew the Indians were likely to leave their camps and move on to the settlers' cabins to take what they could find. During cold weather, the settlers felt safe knowing that the Indians were probably staying in their wigwams.

This late-fall warm period was called goose summer in Middle English (gossummer) apparently because geese were often eaten then.

In the heavy morning dew, webs of small ballooning spiders are often seen spread on grass or shrubs. We refer to the delicate webs as gossamer, from goose summer or Indian summer.

Autumn

Magnificent autumn! He comes not like a pilgrim, clad in russet weeds; not like a hermit, clad in gray; but like a warrior with the stain of blood on his brazen mail. His crimson scarf is rent; his scarlet banner dripping with gore; his step like a flail on the threshing floor.

--**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow** (1807-1882)

Columbus' Journal

"And for this I thought to write down...in great detail from day to day all that I should do and see. ...I have the intention to make a new chart of navigation...and further to compose a book, and set down everything as in a real picture...and above all it is very important that I forget sleep and labor much at navigation because it is necessary. All of which will be great labor.

"Oct. 8: Thanks be to God the air is soft as in April in Seville, and it's a pleasure to be in it, so fragrant it is."

--**From Christopher Columbus'** journal of the first voyage, 1492.

Columbus' Birdwatching

On the night of October 9 and 10, 1492, Columbus and his sailors heard birds overhead and saw flocks outlined against the full moon, flying to the southwest. They were probably birds on migration, and were an indication that land was somewhere near.

Pumpkins

Pumpkins, whose orange hues spell autumn to many people, were cultivated in the Americas as early as 1586, according to records. It is not clear whether they were native to this hemisphere; if not native, they were introduced in prehistoric times.

Pumpkin comes from the Greek and means "cooked in the sun."

November

The most subtle charm of the woods in November is in those blue spaces which lie at so brief a distance in every avenue of meeting boughs, under every enclosing branch. This azure mist which gathers like still faint smoke has the spell of silent waters, of moonlight, of the pale rose of serene dawns.

--**William Sharp** (Fiona Macleod) (1856-1905)

Beaver Moon

The November moon is known as the Beaver Moon because beaver pelts are likely to be in their prime then.

Beau Brummel of London may have been responsible for the extinction of the beaver in the Old World. In the early 1800s he popularized the tall beaver hat, and the demand for beaver pelts exhausted the European supply. Pelts from North America soon commanded fabulous prices.

Voting

The man who can right himself by a vote will seldom resort to a musket.

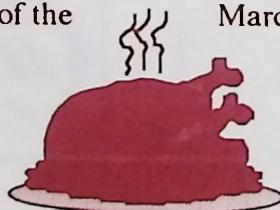
--**James Fenimore Cooper** (1838)

Ballots are the rightful and peaceful successors of bullets.

--**Abraham Lincoln**, message to Congress, July 4, 1861

Your every voter, as surely as your chief magistrate, exercises a public trust.

--**Grover Cleveland**, inaugural address, March 4, 1885



Listed below is the ballot for officers, executive committee and directors at large for the coming year of the Josephine County Historical Society.

Please fill out the ballot, snip this page out and mail it to the society at 512 SW 5th Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526. If you are a member that likes to keep THE OLDTIMER as a memento and hates to cut the page off, don't fret!! You are always more than welcome to stop by the society in person to fill in a xeroxed copy.

Notice that several chairs have no candidates; if you might be interested in serving on one of these positions, please call 479-7827.

The deadline for ballots to reach the society--either by mail or dropped off in person--is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 13.

OFFICERS

1998 President Elect Mel Shaw will automatically be moved to President

President Elect:

★ Michael Oaks

★ Write-In Candidate:

Treasurer:

★ Barbara Smith

★ Write-In Candidate:

Secretary:

★ Jean Boling

★ Write-In Candidate:

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

(Vote for 11)

★ Bernie Martin Beck

★ Judy Boling

★ Jim Clark

★ Dorothy Francis

★ Sherm Heater

★ Bob Lane

★ Marilyn Luttrell

★ Arden McConnell

★ Grace Regester

★ Jim Savard

★ Patricia Snider

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Exhibits Chair:

★

★ Write-In Candidate:

Publishing Chair:

★

★ Lee Ann Tardieu

★

★ Write-In Candidate:

Publicity Chair:

★

★ Charlie Mitchell

★

★ Write-In Candidate:

Program Chair:

★

★ Mollie Means

★

★ Write-In Candidate:

Membership Chair:

★

★ Joan Momsen

★

★ Write-In Candidate:

Volunteer Chair:

★

★ Kerry Mitchell

★

★ Write-In Candidate:

Board Development Chair:

★

★

★ Write-In Candidate:

Research Library Chair:

★

★ Janet Lane

★

★ Write-In Candidate:

Finance Chair:

★

★

★ Write-In Candidate:

Historic Sites Chair:

★

★ Michael Oaks

★

★ Write-In Candidate:

Properties Chair:

★

★ Nancy Campbell

★

★ Write-In Candidate:

Book Shop Chair:

★

★

★ Write-In Candidate:



This framed, memorial needlework, located in the upstairs bedroom of the Schmidt House, was made in remembrance of Martha Schmidt. Martha, who died at eleven months of age, is buried in the Sloan

Cemetery. Embroidered by her mother, Hannchen Schmidt, the frame was built by her father, Claus Schmidt. The death of George Washington in 1799 provoked a wave of mourning that took many forms--one being "mourning pictures." Made for about 50 years (1790-1840), these intricate silk embroideries adorned the parlor walls of the affluent throughout the newly formed United States. Embroidering these pictures offered a young woman from a well-to-do family the opportunity to pay lasting homage to the dead while displaying her gentility through her needlework prowess.

The Josephine County Historical Society is grateful to the following patrons whose gifts were received. These contributions benefit the society and are thoughtful and fitting tributes to those special friends and family members who are either remembered or honored.

*In honor of..
the Schmidt House
a donation by Charles F. Vannice
and Mrs. Charles F. Vannice*

JCHS depends on the generosity of its members.

Please help us advance your history by remembering the JCHS in your will and estate planning, or by making a contribution either in memory or in honor of a fellow history lover or for a special event.

THE OLDTIMER NEWSLETTER

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